Bible & Daily Living

God's nearness is a certain thing

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
The Nearness of God
Lesson for June 29, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Deuteronomy 4:32-40
Introduction

Now and then we ponder whether God is greatly concerned over what happens in our lives. There are times when we feel overshadowed by the presence of God, while at other times we wonder if he really cares what happens to us at all. We each have our moments when we feel abandoned of God and his care. But when God seems remotely far away, he may, in fact, be most near.

The good news of the Bible is that we do not live in a God-bereft world. God is not a nebulous being who resides in some remote galaxy of the universe. God is intimately and infinitely involved in our world and in our lives.

God demonstrates his involvement in our lives when we invite his presence and ask for his help. We can know of his care and feel his presence throughout our earthly pilgrimage as he weaves the events of our lives into a meaningful pattern.

No One Mightier [Deut. 4:32-35]

Moses and the Israelites discovered that God is dependable, that they could count upon his promises of deliverance from their oppressors, they could expect he guiding hand in their journeying. The people of Israel saw with their own eyes that more than any other nation they had been blessed by God. Moses retraced their historical steps and reminded them of God's unique involvement.

Israel learned that God was a God of truth and justice. Throughout their ordeal the Hebrew people experienced time and again the greatness of God's benevolent power and love. On numerous occasions God demonstrated his miraculous power through signs and wonders.

And God still blesses his people with signs and wonders. He may reveal himself in ways different from his earlier revelations, but he does reveal himself to his people.

God's Ultimate Purposes [Deut. 4:36-40]

God is not limited to his demonstrations of power in nature or against his enemies. The crowning side of God's nature is the strength of his love and grace. God loved his people so much that he chose to enter with them into a covenant relationship. The Israelites became God's chosen nation through a "sealed" covenant to take a special place in society and history.

God chose the Israelites, not because of any special merit they possessed, but because of their potential use in his plan. God chooses those persons who are not necessarily super humans but who have the potential for fitting into the divine scheme of things. God wants those who are willing to serve him wherever and whenever.

For too long we have pushed the notion that to be chosen by God one must receive something like an audible calling from heaven. While God does "call" people into service, he also uses those who simply make themselves available.

Those who are open to the leadership of God will discover that he leads in mysterious and wonderful ways. One may never know when God will uproot you and lead in another direction. There is immense security in knowing that the hand of God will not lead where the grace of God will not go.

If we are open and willing, God will lead us down new avenues, new ways of perceiving, new ways of relating to people, new methods of service. To follow God is to tread the path of faith, knowing that he is ever behind us, beside us, and out in front of us. God does not ask his people to tread paths he is not willing to tread with them. That assurance makes saying yes to God much easier.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

THIRTEEN STUDENTS GRADUATED from the Liberty Baptist Church Nursery School in ceremonies held May 31. Shown above are (front, from left) Kelly Kvasnicka, Martha Wingfield, Susan Anderson, Meg Sefter, Tracy Przenioslo; (back from left) Mark Lawson, Oliver Clark, Wyatt Almond, Michael Hayes, Seth Clabough and John Almond. The class teacher, Linda Youngblood, is standing in back. Not shown in the picture are students Kelley Midgett and Amy Barr (photo by Joe Vaughan).

From VBH nursing school

Miss Shorter graduates

Laura Jeanne Shorter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Shorter, Route 2, Appomattox and Marlene Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude A. Moore, Rt. 3, Appomattox were among 31 graduates of the Virginia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Lynchburg on Sunday, June 21. Graduation ceremonies took place at 2:30 p.m. at West Lynchburg Baptist Church in Lynchburg.

Presiding over the activities was George W. Dawson, Hospital executive director, with Dr. Marvin Gold, Hospital chaplain, presenting the invocation.

Guest speaker was Betsy Bampton, R.N., M.S.N., N.P., of Richmond, Virginia, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Walter A. Garbee, Jr., teasurer of the boad of trustees, presented the diplomas to the graduates. Eleanor Garrett, Director of the School, presented the pins.

Representatives of the Auxiliary of the Gideons' International presented nurses' testaments and Dr. John Stephenson, president of the Hospital Medical Staff, presented awards to the honor graduates.

A reception was held in the church hall following the ceremony.

Watts to be promoted

Theresa L. Watts, daughter of Alice Watts of Route 1, Appomattox, Va., has been specially identified for early promotion to senior airman in the U. S. Air Force.

The airman was awarded the new rating ahead of other Air Force members by a "below-the-zone" promotion board which considered job performance, military knowledge, bearing and self-improvement efforts.

Watts is an administration specialist with the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

She is a 1979 graduate of Appomattox County High School.

For environmental improvement

Westvaco wins forestry award

Westvaco Corporation's Timberlands Division has won its fourth award in the annual environmental improvement competition conducted jointly by the American Paper Institute and the National Forest Products Association.

Westvaco received the award for installation of a comprehensive multiple use management program that resulted in a larger, healthier wildlife population; substantial increases in visitor days and revenues for hunting, fishing and other forest recreation; a detailed inventory for protection of rare and endangered species, and economic timber production on corporate lands.

The prestigious API/NFPA award won by Timberlands for its 1980 achievement, was presented June 10 in Washington, D. C. to Fredrick W. Kinard, Jr., Westvaco Wildlife Biologist, coordinator of the winning program.

This is the greatest number of awards won by any forestry or timberlands unit in the industry since the annual contest began in 1973, and it gives Westvaco a total of five awards, tying the company with another industry organization which also has five awards. In 1977, Westvaco also won an award in Solid Waste disposal. Westvaco's Timberlands Division also won API/NFPA awards in 1976, 1977 and 1979.

International Paper Company also received an award in the forest management category, and several other paper industry companies were presented with awards in the various API/NFPA contest categories.

An independent jury of environmental experts from outside the industry selected the winning entries in the annual contest for significant achievements and innovative approaches during 1980 in five environmental areas relating to the paper and other forest product industries.

St. Anne's Schedule

Saint Anne's Worship Schedule
Week of June 28
Sunday, June 28
7:20 a.m. - Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
8:00 p.m. - Evening Prayer and Laying-on-of-Hands for Healing
Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. - 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Thursday - 7:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist.

Former resident cited

Scott Ormond, 11 lives in Orlando, Florida; he is a victim of cerebral palsy and he loves baseball.

When Scott's favorite team, the Houston Astros recently visited Orlando to play an exhibition game with the Minnesota Twins, he wanted very much to attend. He wanted more than that; he wanted to talk to the players. He did just that.

With the help of Officer Larry Haley of the Orlando Police Department, Scott's dream came true. Officer Haley was on duty at the game and arranged for the young man to sit in the Astro's dugout and talk with the players.

Officer Haley works in the OPD's community relations division and often visits the schools to familiarize children with police officers and their duties.

Lawrence Gayle Haley is the brother of Wallace Haley of Appomattox, he is the son of Mr. R. B. Haley of Martinsville and the late Mrs. Haley and is a former resident of Appomattox.

Dr. Vigo H. Nielsen
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